

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. CP12-0493

In honor of Thomas O. Markham on the occasion of his retirement from the Lowry Redevelopment Authority

WHEREAS, in September of 1994, the 63-year old Lowry Air Force Base was closed as a military base, and so began its conversion to civilian use; and

WHEREAS, just prior to base closure, Thomas O. Markham became Deputy Director, and in 1997, was appointed Executive Director of the Lowry Redevelopment Authority (LRA) charged with the responsibility of Master Developer for Lowry, including all financial arrangements; all on-site horizontal development; land sales to residential and commercial developers; and developing a successful public engagement process with surrounding neighbors and later Lowry residents; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Markham was particularly well-suited to his position, having graduated from the US Air Force Academy with a degree in Engineering Management and earned his Master's degree in Organizational Management from the University of Colorado; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. Markham's direction, Lowry is one of the top ten most successful military base redevelopments in the United States and has become a premiere model for such conversions across the country; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Markham represented the LRA, Denver, Aurora and Colorado on the Association of Defense Communities, of which he served as president; and he testified before Congress on several occasions on behalf of communities experiencing base closure and realignment; and

WHEREAS, Denver and Aurora estimate that \$300 million in annual spending and 7000 jobs were lost when the base closed, a major blow to any area; however, because of the balanced redevelopment plan, the dedicated LRA Board of Directors, the talented staff, and the superior skills and tenaciousness of Tom Markham, the redeveloped Lowry has created a \$6 billion positive economic impact on our city and region; and

WHEREAS, the Lowry community today includes 50 re-purposed Air Force buildings; 4500 homes in a variety of price ranges; 3.2 million square feet of commercial and retail space; 14 schools from pre-school to college and 800 acres of new parks and open space for Denver; and

WHEREAS, Tom Markham retired from the LRA earlier this year after a distinguished career and with the sincere thanks of Denver and Aurora.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That the Council recognizes the invaluable and dedicated service Tom Markham has given both to his country as a serviceman and to Denver as the leader of the Lowry project and sincerely thanks him for guiding the intricate process of creating a thriving new Denver community out of the Air Force base.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and Council of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to Thomas Markham.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL June 25, 2012

PRESIDENT